



THE LEADER

Vol. 37, No. 45

Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. ♦ www.grandforks.af.mil

Nov. 15, 2002

In Control



319th MOS fine tunes base's maintenance world

- See Pages 10 and 11 for more

319th Air Refueling Wing ♦ Solano Trophy Winner ♦ Best Base in 15th Air Force

Inside:

Weekend weather

Today	30/7	partly cloudy
Saturday	35/15	mostly cloudy
Sunday	42/24	mostly cloudy
Monday	33/16	partly cloudy



Weather information courtesy
319th Operations Support Squadron weather flight

**Warriors
support
Veterans
Day**

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**Quarterly
award
winners**

Page 3



**Veterans
Day 8K
race**

Page 13

Warriors of the North support Veterans Day in two states



Photo by Marcia Heath

A base honor guard contingent does a flag folding ceremony during the Veterans Day observance at Karlstad, Minn., Monday.



Photo by Marcia Heath

(Above) Capt. Frank Virgadamo, 319th Mission Support Squadron, gave a speech for the Karlstad, Minn. Veterans Day observance. (Right) Master Sgt. Rich Lien, 319th Civil Engineer Squadron fire department, speaks during Veterans Day activities in Grafton.



Courtesy photo



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

John Hanson, family support center, and retired Master Sgt. Paul Frushour, both with the Grand Forks Veterans of Foreign Wars post, stand ready for a gun salute during a special ceremony before the Veteran's Day eight kilometer race Monday at Lincoln Park Golf Course in Grand Forks.



This issue of The Leader is dedicated to informing readers about the 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron. A behind-the-scenes unit, 319th MOS does more than most people know. In this photo, Staff Sgts. Brent Green and John Carpenter work the console inside the base maintenance operations center.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

87%

Air Refueling Effectiveness Rate from Nov. 4 through Nov. 10.

13

DWI-free days. The base gets a down day for 100 DWI-free days.

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Staff Sgt. Scott Sturkol	Chief, internal information
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Deadlines

Articles: Due by noon Thursday the week prior to publication. For any questions about submissions, call The Leader staff at 747-5019.

Contact information

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Public Affairs

Editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the 319th ARW public affairs office. Copy submitted for publication is edited to conform to the Associated Press Stylebook and for length.

Advertisements

Call the Grand Forks Herald at 701.780.1275 before noon Tuesday.

Correction

In the Page 3 article on Anthrax vaccinations, it should have read that Bioport facilities were FDA approved in January 2002 (not 2001). Also, the Website for more details is located at <http://www.anthrax.osd.mil>.

Wing announces third quarter award winners



Honor Guard Member of the Quarter

Staff Sgt. Juan Madrid
319th Maintenance Squadron

Madrid performed in 50 percent of all details this quarter, volunteering more than 215 hours for funerals, retirements, promotions and numerous off-base events around North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin. His dedication and contributions made him an invaluable asset to this elite group, as evidenced in his selection as the "Top Boots" winner for August, an honor reserved for only the sharpest and most professional honor guard member the wing has to offer.



Airman of the Quarter

Airman 1st Class Mathew Hancsarik
319th Contracting Squadron

Hancsarik is a "can do" airman. He completed his acquisition professional certification in half the normal time, completed 18 college credit hours, and scored a 93 percent on his career development course end-of-course exam. Hancsarik set himself apart by assuming responsibility for negotiating and awarding a \$2.3 million base engineering requirements contract when the primary administrator was on temporary duty. He has contributed to more than 100 total contract actions valued at more than \$6 million. He is an active member of the base honor guard, coaches youth soccer, and invigorates squadron activities with cheer and enthusiasm.



NCO of the Quarter

Staff Sgt. Quincy Fluellen
319th Communications Squadron

Fluellen expertly installed network-monitoring software at 50 strategic locations that impacted more than 2,400 network

accounts. He expeditiously and flawlessly corrected all discrepancies necessary to meet stringent network requirements. His efforts directly contributed to the base being recognized as "the best prepared" and "easiest to migrate" network in all of Air Mobility Command. In addition, he reworked AMC's failed computer script, keeping electronic mail consolidation on track, which, in turn, made the base's e-mail the first and only completely migrated system in the command.



Senior NCO of the Quarter

Master Sgt. Vincent Hoffman
319th Civil Engineer Squadron

Hoffman is superintendent of the horizontal construction section. He masterfully managed the construction of a 460-foot berm and associated drainage system behind base supply. This high-profile project greatly enhanced base appearance and eliminated a severe drainage problem. In addition, he directed the repair of five collapsed storm drains in the commissary and chapel parking lots. His team excavated and replaced 15 tons of asphalt correcting a long-standing traffic hazard and saved more than \$5,000 in contract repairs. He is actively involved in a local Habitat for Humanity project and participated in the traveling Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall opening ceremonies in Grand Forks in August.



First Sergeant of the Quarter

Senior Master Sgt. Victor Rountree
319th Civil Engineer Squadron

Rountree displayed superb, unequaled leadership as an advisor to 319th Aircraft Generation Squadron and 319th Civil Engineer Squadron commanders on Articles 15 and discharge actions, reprimands and diverse issues. Dedicated to unit morale and welfare, he ensured hospitalized unit members were in good spirits and health. In addition, he led unit members during the local Vietnam Veterans

Memorial Moving Wall display honoring veterans. Having successfully completed the American Red Cross notification training, he was able to refine the calling process for next of kin notifications. Rountree also served as the 319th Mission Support Group's "flight sergeant" for the historic wing re-organization in late September.

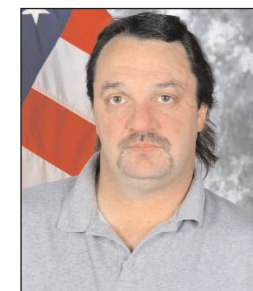


Company Grand Officer of the Quarter

1st Lt. Brian Powers
319th Operations Support Squadron

Powers, a weather officer, served as the wing weather functional for planning the Air Mobility Command Inspector General-generated exercise at the Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center. His superior leadership and skills paid off when his unit type code, or UTC, was rated "outstanding" -- only one of three outstanding ratings in the 15th Air Force. He continued to shine when he deployed as weather flight commander for the 88th Air Expeditionary Group simulated deployment and of the 217 UTCs inspected, his was one of only 12 rated "outstanding" and was lauded by the 15th Air Force commander.

While at home station, Powers led the severe weather action team and provided the base over 90 minutes of lead time for 10 severe thunderstorms and four tornados in the valley protecting more \$11 billion in base assets. In his spare time, Powers served as the operations group point man for the highly successful Air Force Ball. Powers is a dynamic officer who constantly produces superior results and exceeds the highest expectations for the performance in any difficult assignment.



Category I, Civilian Program Specialist of the Quarter

Jeffrey Leebrick
319th Civil Engineer Squadron

Leebrick, a maintenance controller, capitalized on the 11th-

-- See **WINNERS**, Page 6

Briefs

Stop smoking for just a day

The Great American Smokeout is Nov. 21. Register at the base exchange mall today or Monday through Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Join millions of other smokers who quit for a day and have a chance to win free turkeys. “Quit kits” containing brochures, mints, gum and Nicorette discount coupons will be given away for free. More people quit on this day than on any other.

For details call 747-5546.

NCOA, AFSA meeting

The Grand Forks Chapters of the Noncommissioned Officers Association and Air Force Sergeants Association hold a combined meeting Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Club. The guest speaker is retired Chief Master Sgt. James E. Lokovic, Air Force Sergeants Association deputy executive director and director of military and government relations.

Dinner is optional and can be ordered off the club menu. Call Tech Sgt. Bill Richardson at 747-6020.

Master sergeant court martialled

On Oct. 17, Master Sgt. Anthony C. Peters, 319th Mission Support Squadron, was convicted at a special court-martial of one specification of dereliction of duty (misuse of his government travel card on divers occasions) in violation of Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice; and one specification of absent without leave in violation of Article 86 of the UCMJ. He was sentenced to a reduction to the grade of technical sergeant, confinement for four months, and forfeitures of \$400 pay per month for four months.

New travel voucher procedures

Effective Dec. 1, a verification stamp is required on temporary duty orders before finance will process any travel vouchers. To accomplish this, everyone needs to sign in and out with their commanders’ support staff, before going and upon returning from TDY.

The personnel readiness unit will stamp all contingency orders upon return.

MPF hours change

Effective Monday, the military personnel flight’s hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday; and 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. MPF closed every third Friday for training.

Moldova, Macedonia volunteers sought

The Air Force Personnel Center seeks E-7 and E-8 volunteers for military liaison team duties in Moldova and Macedonia.

The mil-to-mil program is a high-priority, high-visibility effort that requires dealing effectively with senior officers in countries which have had few previous contacts with the U.S. military. Host country language skills are desirable, but not mandatory. TDY length is for 179 days and will begin May 5, 2003.

Interested members should call MPF customer service by Nov. 30 at 747-4902.

JAG announces law school programs

Applications for the fiscal 2003 Funded Legal Education Program and Excess Leave Program, are being accepted from Jan. 1 through March 1. Interested officers are encouraged to compete. The Funded Legal Education Program program is a paid legal studies program for active-duty Air Force officers. FLEP applicants must have no less than two years, and no more than six years active-duty service (enlisted or commissioned) prior to entry into law school.

FLEP applicants must also be in the pay grade of 0-3 or below as of the first day of law school. The Excess Leave Program is an unpaid legal studies program for Air Force officers. ELP applicants must have no less than two years and no more than 10 years of active-duty service prior to entering law school.

Additionally, ELP applicants must be in the pay grade of 0-3 (with less than three years in grade) or below as of the first day of law school. Both the FLEP and ELP require attendance at an American Bar Association-accredited law school. Candidate selection is based on the “whole person concept.”

For details call Maj. Lynnette Pratzner at DSN 224-5941.

Tree lighting, holiday card contest

Light up the holidays. The base tree lighting ceremony and holiday card contest is Dec. 4, at the base library, at 4:30 p.m. Also, enter the annual cookie contest at the base library, 747-3046, and participate in the annual holiday card contest with the skills development center, 747-3482.

Photo contest winners named

The base photo contest was completed Nov. 8 and 13 people either won or placed in a variety of categories. The winners will now be forwarded to the Air Mobility Command competition.

Below are the categories and the winners.

Adult winners

Color prints

Scenic/nature category

1. Jeannette A. Lewis – “Patriotic Puppy”
2. Tiffany N. Luethy – “Clowning Around”

People category

1. Karl J. Luethy – “Surprise”
2. Gary D. Brooks – “Life Imitates Art”

Creative effects

1. Gary D. Brooks – “On the Wings of the Morning”

Monochrome (black & white) prints

Scenic/nature category

1. Jim W. Bridges – “A Chapel of Trees”
2. Brad S. Painter – “Fallen Tree”

Creative effects

1. Jim W. Bridges – “Create a Photo Night”
2. Brad S. Painter – “Time Flies”

Digital prints

Scenic/nature category

1. Brad S. Painter – “To Bee or Not to Bee”
2. Benjamin D. Kramer – “Volcanic Sky”

People category

1. Scott T. Sturkol – “Take the Picture Dad”
2. Karina Sinclair – “Carefree”

Military life category

1. Scott T. Sturkol – “Sept. 11-One Year Later”

Creative effects category

1. Bobbi J. Sturkol – “One Happy Guy”
2. Scott T. Sturkol – “Memory of a Time Past”

Computer imaging enhancement category

1. Krista Lee Duston – “Their True Nature”

Color transparencies

Scenic/nature category

1. Jim W. Bridges – “The Hungry Three”

Youth winners

Digital prints

Scenic/nature category

1. Macy E. Sturkol – “Evening Sky”

People category

1. Ivy M. Sturkol – “My Mom and Dad”

AF seeks improved retention through GI Bill test program

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Air Force will begin testing a retention tool to help servicemembers provide for their family’s education.

As part of the Montgomery GI Bill Transferability Test Program, members working in selected critical career fields will be able to transfer a portion of their MGIB benefits to one or more family members. Both commissioned and enlisted members are eligible.

Senior Master Sgt. Joey Walker, chief of retention policy for the Air Force directorate of learning force development, said the program gives servicemembers another great reason to sign on the dotted line.

“There are many factors that influence a person’s decision to stay in the Air Force,” Walker said. “This is a great initiative we can use to target (Air Force career fields) experiencing low retention.”

For enlisted members to use this re-enlistment benefit, they must re-enlist between Oct. 1 and Sep. 30, 2003, have between six and 12 years time-in-service, be eligible for MGIB benefits and work in one of the selected specialties, linguists, firefighters and communications computer system programmers.

Officers must meet the same time-in-service requirement as enlisted members, agree to incur a four-year active-duty serv-

ice commitment during fiscal 2003 and be eligible for MGIB benefits. Officer specialties include developmental engineers, scientists and civil engineers.

Air Force members meeting the criteria for the test program will be able to transfer up to 18 months of their MGIB benefits to their spouse, children or a combination of both.

Plans for the proposed policy are being reviewed by officials at the Air Force Personnel Center, so the program has not yet been activated; however, servicemembers who meet the criteria and who have extended their service commitment will be eligible.

“The program is not active yet because we have not sent implementation procedures out to the field,” said Jim Sweizer, chief of the voluntary education branch for the Air Force directorate of learning and force development. “But everybody who meets the criteria and who extends (his or her) active-duty service commitment during fiscal 2003 is still eligible for this benefit.”

All those taking advantage of the benefits of the test program will be surveyed to see how the MGIB transferability option affects their decision to extend their service. The results of the survey will determine the continuation of the program.

Servicemembers wanting more information should call the education office at 747-3317.

Medical services limited on group’s training days

The 319th Medical Group holds medical readiness training on the third Friday of every month from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This required training enables us to continuously learn, maintain, and provide elite patient care during contingency or disaster operations.

The clinic will provide emergency ambulance response only during the listed times. All other services, to include, but not limited to all patient care clinics, pharmacy, radiology, and laboratory services, will be closed during this crucial training period and will not open until 1 p.m.

Following is the training days for 319th MDG for the remainder of this year and for 2003.

2002

- ☐ November – today
- ☐ Dec. 20

2003

- ☐ Jan 17
- ☐ Feb. 21
- ☐ March 21
- ☐ April 18
- ☐ May 16
- ☐ June 20
- ☐ July 18
- ☐ Aug. 15
- ☐ Sept. 19
- ☐ Oct. 17
- ☐ Nov. 21
- ☐ Dec. 19

Source: 319th Medical Group

Don’t Drink and Drive!

For a free, confidential, safe ride home, call Airmen Against Drunk Driving at 740-CARE (2273). This program is open to military members, their families, and Department of Defense civilian employees.

-- WINNERS, from Page 3

hour flying opportunities to clear up a massive work order backlog. His dedicated efforts ensured 22 mission critical projects, valued at more than \$290,000, were funded and ready for execution. He also processed and tracked 75 customer work requests, totaling more than \$500,000 in labor and materials. In addition, he meticulously maintained status of more than 400 work order requests using a database that follows work orders from cradle to grave.



Category II, Civilian Program Manager of the Quarter
Stacey Pietron
319th Services Squadron

Pietron, the squadron’s marketing director, used outstanding management of the services marketing program to impact virtually every member of Team Grand Forks. Her efforts were crucial in the base placing second in the highly competitive Around the World in 90 Days competition, guaranteeing the base \$15,000 in quality of life funding. She also led the way in delivering three spectacular events for the military community – Tops in Blue, Summer Bash and the University of North Dakota football team scrimmage on base. During this period, she was recognized as the 319th Mission Support Group’s “Make a Difference” Award winner and twice awarded the services 24-7 Award.



Category III, Civilian Senior Program Manager of the Quarter
Jerome Lahaise
319th Civil Engineer Squadron

Lahaise, 319th CES’ operations flight facilities superintendent, greatly enhanced base appearance through a coordinated effort to remove more than 5,000 feet of abandoned above-ground, high-temperature hot water line. He developed and oversaw a brilliant plan to contract the line removal at no cost to the government. In addition, he oversaw the contract installation of the new tail doors on two aircraft hangers. His valiant efforts eliminated a maintenance nightmare and provided a safe working environment for aircraft maintenance personnel.

Base theater

Today, 7 p.m.

The Tuxedo (PG-13)

Think Inspector Gadget for fans of martial arts. Jimmy Tong (Jackie Chan) is a New York City taxi driver hired to be a chauffeur for millionaire Clark Devlin (Jason Isaacs), who also happens to be working on a top-secret mission for the U.S. gov-ernment. But when Devlin is knocked out of com-mission, Tong slips into Devlin's experimental new tuxedo, loaded with high-tech gadgets, and soon finds himself in the strange world of espionage, paired with an equally inexperienced secret agent (Jennifer Love Hewitt).

Saturday, 3 p.m.

Sweet Home Alabama (PG-13)

A young woman flees from Alabama to reinvent herself in New York, leaving behind her "white trash" upbringing and husband. She finds herself becoming a city socialite and is happy with her Park Avenue boyfriend. Everything's going perfect-ly, until he proposes to her, forcing her to return home to tell her parents and divorce the husband she left. But the trip awakens memories of her past, and she must choose between her new life and her old life.

Nov. 22, 7 p.m.

The Barbershop (R)

Nov. 23, 3 p.m.

Abandon (PG-13)

Tickets: \$1.50 children, \$3 adults

Base chapel

CATHOLIC:

Mass: 5 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. Sunday.

No weekday mass until Thursday

Pray the Rosary: 11:30 a.m., Sunflower Chapel, Mondays through Fridays

CCD: 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Twining Elementary School

Reconciliation: 4 p.m. Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Sunday, or by appointment, Sunflower Chapel

PROTESTANT:

Traditional Protestant worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel.

Liturgical worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Prairie Rose Chapel.

Contemporary worship: 6 p.m. Sunday, Prairie Rose Chapel

Singles: 6 p.m. Friday, meet at Prairie Rose Chapel annex

Youth: 4 p.m. Sunday, meet at youth center

Religious Education: 9 a.m. Sunday, Eielson Elementary School.

Men of the Chapel: noon Monday, Prairie Rose conference room

JEWISH:

For details call Sheila Farquharson at 594-3960 or Synagogue B’nai Israel at 775-5124.

RUSSIAN/EASTERN ORTHODOX:

For details call Dr. Levitov 780-6540.

MUSLIM, BUDDHIST, OTHER:

For details call 747-5673.

Feature

Five American Indians given U.S. military's highest honor

The Medal of Honor

Courtesy Native American Heritage Month Committee

In the 20th century, five American Indians have been among those soldiers to be distinguished by receiving the United States' highest military honor: the Medal of Honor. Given for military heroism "above and beyond the call of duty," these warriors exhibited extraordinary bravery in the face of the enemy and, in two cases, made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Jack C. Montgomery:

A Cherokee from Oklahoma, and a first lieutenant with the 45th Infantry Division Thunderbirds. On Feb. 22, 1944, near Padiglione, Italy, Montgomery's rifle platoon was under fire by three echelons of enemy forces, when he single-handedly attacked all three positions, taking prisoners in the process. As a result of his courage, Montgomery's actions demoralized the enemy and inspired his men to defeat the Axis troops.



Ernest Childers:

A Creek from Oklahoma, and a first lieutenant with the 45th Infantry Division. Childers received the Medal of Honor for heroic action in 1943 when, up against

machine gun fire, he and eight men charged the enemy. Although suffering a broken foot in the assault, Childers ordered covering fire and advanced up the hill, single-handedly killing two snipers, silencing two machine gun nests, and capturing an enemy mortar observer.

Van Barfoot:

A Choctaw from Mississippi, and a second lieutenant in the Thunderbirds. On May 23, 1944, during the breakout from Anzio to Rome, Barfoot knocked out two machine gun nests and captured 17 German soldiers. Later that same day, he repelled a German tank assault, destroyed a Nazi fieldpiece and while returning to camp carried two wounded commanders to safety.



Mitchell Red Cloud Jr.:

A Winnebago from Wisconsin, and a Corporal in Company E., 19th Infantry Regiment in Korea. On Nov. 5, 1950, Red Cloud was on a ridge guarding his compa-

ny command post when he was surprised by Chinese communist forces. He sounded the alarm and stayed in his position firing his automatic rifle at point-blank range to check the assault.

This gave his company time to consolidate their defenses. After being severely wounded by enemy fire, he refused assistance and continued firing upon the enemy until he was fatally wounded. His heroic action prevented the enemy from overrunning his company's position and gained time for evacuation of the wounded.

Charles George:

A Cherokee from North Carolina, and private first class in Korea when he was killed on Nov. 30, 1952.

During battle, George threw himself upon a grenade and smothered it with his body. In doing so, he sacrificed his own life but saved the lives of his comrades. For this brave and selfless act, George was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in 1954.



Native American Heritage events

Tuesday

Youth activities: Arts and crafts

Location: Youth center

Nov. 23

Pow-wow: Features Walking Wolf Dancers from Canada

Location: Twining Elementary School gym

Time: Noon to 2 p.m.

Nov. 23

Base-wide art contest judging

Location: Twining Elementary School

Time: 2 p.m.

Commentary

319th MOS is always there, ready to assist

By Maj. David Haar
319th Maintenance
Operations Squadron



Where do you work...what squadron is that? A common question when I'm out in the wing.

After the wing's Oct. 1 reorganization, the 319th Logistics Support Squadron evolved to the 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron.

Beyond just a name change, the squadron has also undertaken numerous changes in organizational structure. The logistics plans flight was moved from the squadron to the 319th Logistics Readiness Squadron; the maintenance operations center was moved from the wing staff to the squadron; an internal division of the operations flight saw the creation of a new programs and resources flight; and we've gained the much needed position of squadron first sergeant.

The 319th Maintenance Operation Squadron is a small but mighty squadron, with an important contribution to the 319th Air Refueling Wing's mission. The squadron has 101 assigned personnel and is responsible for the staff functions required to support the 319th Maintenance Group.

The squadron is responsible for the wing's maintenance data analysis, providing leadership with many tools to ensure our fleet is maintained to the highest standards. The squadron is also responsible for the maintenance scheduling of 54 assigned aircraft, working closely with our operations counterparts to publish and track a variety of aircraft scheduling products.

We monitor changes to our aircraft fleet,

and schedule maintenance actions as needed. The 319th MOS tracks and coordinates all engine actions and movements for their own fleet of over 200 F-108 assigned engines. The squadron is responsible for maintenance training for the entire group, and provides needed support for Det. 10, our local field training detachment. The squadron is responsible for monitoring the quality of maintenance being performed on our fleet, and managing maintenance programs.

Finally, the squadron manages many key programs for the 319th MXG such as mobility, security, facilities, local area network, to name a few. As you can see, our squadron has ties to nearly every function in the 319th Maintenance Group, a direct and positive mission impact to our wing's success.

There are many aspects making our squadron the outstanding place that it is. Our proud professionals enjoy a relatively stable environment and lifestyle.

While we may not have a huge deployment tasking with only 10 to 15 personnel deployed/TDY at any given time, our squadron provides a significant labor force to help the wing deploy personnel to the different theaters. From drivers to marshalls to group control center support, our squadron is always there ready to assist.

During contingency operations, 59 percent of our squadron transforms from its peacetime duty to its wartime function. With the stable lifestyle, the squadron is able to spend time focusing on its people, their families, and the surrounding community activities. The squadron has developed community, social, and fitness programs to bring our diverse group of individuals together. The squadron is continuously dedicated to success, its people, and our wing mission.



Combined Federal Campaign

Combined Federal Campaign

Through the fifth week of the base
Combined Federal Campaign, 92 percent of
base members were contacted, and \$62,679

was collected to date, or 72 percent of the wing goal.

The CFC supports a variety of helpful charitable organizations.
To make a donation or to find out more, contact your unit CFC
representative.

Campaign ends today

Group's heartbeat

319th Maintenance Operations Squadron carries a heavy load

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Public affairs

Back when the unit was the 319th Logistics Support Squadron a mere month and a half ago, the 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron had the same people and the same kind of mission it does now.

When the wing reorganized Oct. 1, names of flights and sections changed. One thing held true through all the change though – all their people continued doing the best job possible.

“We’ve got a great staff who supports a lot of functions,” said Maj. David Haar, 319th MOS commander. “We are the smallest squadron in the newly-formed 319th Maintenance Group, but the responsibility we carry for the group is no small measure.”

Haar refers to the major responsibilities every member in the unit carries.

“As a staff support squadron for the maintenance group, we affect every part of the group and, in many ways, the wing,” Haar said. “Our primary goal is to

take care of the maintenance group.”

The squadron’s five flights are key to taking care of that primary goal, Haar said.

“The reorganization affected the squadron in several ways,” Haar said. “Logistics planners moved to the 319th Logistics Readiness Squadron and new flights like the maintenance operations flight and the programs and resources flight were formed. The three other flights – quality assurance, training, and the field training detachment – remained the same.”

The maintenance operations

flight is the largest flight with 51 people. One of the busiest sections in that flight is the analysis section, said Airman 1st Class Jay Garcia, maintenance data systems analyst. “My unit and section strive for perfection,” Garcia said. “Everybody works hard and we have very good analysts who really crunch the numbers.”

The analysis section, Haar said, is responsible for taking all the maintenance data the wing has and having it readily available for group and wing leadership to make decisions.

“Their accuracy is critical,” Haar added.

In the quality assurance flight,



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Airman Jason Priela and Airman 1st Class Jay Garcia, 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron maintenance data systems analysts, work on calculating numbers for a maintenance database.

16 people from every maintenance career

field make sure maintenance operations and procedures are done properly.

“We’re the eyes and ears of the maintenance group commander for all maintenance to make sure it is done by the book,” said Master Sgt. Ken Schuler, chief QA inspector. “We’re the enforcers. We’ve all spent time out on the flightline



Photo by Master Sgt. Chris Glevien

Master Sgt. John Watters, programs and resources flight chief, works on a project in his office.

doing the work and if you get accepted to work in QA, you’re considered to be one of the best in your career field.”

Haar said the training flight trains all maintenance group members.

“The maintenance group has nearly 1,000 people – all of whom need training,” Haar said. “You can imagine what kind of effort that takes.”

The programs and resources flight is one of the newest flights. With 10 people and a wide range of responsibility, the flight’s chief said they each carry a heavy load.

“We do budget, mobility, manning, facilities, support agreements, local area network, and LogNet,” said Master Sgt. John Watters, flight chief. “How important is this to the wings mission? Well, what could you do without money, buildings, manning, instructions and communication?”

The last flight is what Haar refers to as his “adopted” flight – Det. 10 of the 373rd Training Squadron.

“We consider them a part of our unit,” Haar said. “They do everything with us and I wouldn’t have it any other way.”

Senior Master Sgt. Kathy Rumén, 319th MOS superintendent, said everyone in the unit is a key player and that should not be forgotten.

“Our squadron is made up of schedulers, maintainers, and analysts,” Rumén said. “Everyone of them is crucial to our air refueling mission.”



Inside the MOC: Keeping maintenance schedules on track

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Public affairs

Sporting a new name, the maintenance operations center holds down a mission the 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron commander considers one of the most “visual” in the squadron.

“As the primary oversight for all maintenance activities and personnel for our wing aircraft, we see the critical effects of our maintenance capabilities and how they affect our mission,” said Staff Sgt. John Carpenter, MOC coordinator.

Carpenter said the job is mentally challenging, requiring tactful verbal and written capabilities, strong computer skills, and, as the information middleman, the understanding of being blamed for problems outside of your control.

Staff Sgt. Tommy Cook, weapons system coordinator, said working in the MOC gives a different perspective on the maintenance world.

“It provides maintenance people a chance to get away from the hands-on work of the flightline and see some of the management aspects of our job that we would not normally get exposure to until further along in our careers,” Cook said. “In describing my job I normally ask, ‘Have you seen the television program 911?’

“I sit at a console much like the ones on that show,” Cook said. “Except instead of taking emergency calls and dispatching police, I coordinate with all the maintenance agencies on base as well as with the aircrews, tower, fire department, and law enforcement to ensure that maintenance people have the information and assets available to them to accomplish the mission in the safest and quickest way possible.”

Staff Sgt. Aaron Dominick, also a weapons system coordinator, said the unique part about the job is they get to see the

big picture when it comes to maintenance and flying and how they are so closely tied.

“I wouldn’t trade my job in the MOC for any other,”

Dominick said. “We track maintenance status of all our aircraft whether they are here or not.

Basically that means we can keep track of which planes can fly, and if one can’t we try to speed along the fixing of it by coordinating the proper people to come out and fix it.”

With the current War on Terrorism, the MOC feels the pressure of deployments more than any other section in the office, said Maj. David Haar, 319th MOS commander. Out of five people in the squadron deployed, two of them are from the MOC.

With that said, each member of the MOC is proud they are supporting the war.

“I feel honored to provide upper echelon leaders with essential data so effective allocation of critical supplies and tools will ensure our continued superior mission effectiveness



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Sturkol

Staff Sgt. John Carpenter, maintenance operations center controller, takes a call at his console. The MOC is in Building 607.

conditioned, a lot of computer work, radio speaking skills a plus, and stressful during emergencies.

“Don’t worry about missing TDYs...they are just as plentiful as on the flightline,” Carpenter said.

If this sounds like something you would like to do, notify your supervisor and contact Master Sgt. Ken Sauvageau at 747-6756 or Master Sgt. David Miller at 767-6755 to set up an interview.

Taking care of ‘whole person’ pays off

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
Public affairs

Maj. David Haar, 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron commander, makes it a point to keep morale high for his troops because stress levels can get high.

“We’ve been able to do everything we’ve been asked and then a little more,” Haar said. “That’s why it’s important to take a break every now and then.”

Haar’s philosophy is to take care of the “whole person.” He said it has helped the unit achieve success.

“We’re always looking to maintain continued excellence,” Haar said.

“We do that by taking care of our people and they take care of the mission. I think our squadron has been one of the because of that.”

Every month squadron members get together three different times to do team-building activities, Haar said.

First, they’ll have a party or potluck where squadron members and their families all come together to have some food and fun.

Squadron members also get together once a month to do a team sports and a community service activity.

“Last month we went to the Grand Forks mission and did some volunteer work,” Haar added.

The commander also takes a vested interest in families.

“I have something I call the ‘home line,’” Haar said.

“It’s a system where I personally send the squadron newsletter from my home electronic mail account to home e-mail accounts of squadron members,” Haar said. “It’s on a sign-up basis and it allows for families to get information directly from me.”

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Molstad, noncommissioned officer in charge of the technical order distribution office and a relative newcomer to the unit, said he’s happy with what he has seen.

“Coming into this unit gave me a chance to get off of the flightline,” Molstad said.

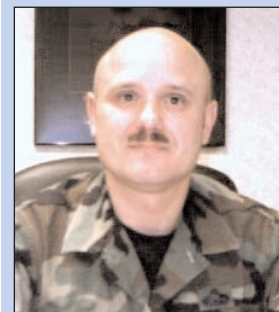
“This is a smaller squadron and more family-oriented.

“That’s a good thing to be a part of.”



Photo by Maj. David Haar

319th Maintenance Operations Squadron members and their families enjoy an early Thanksgiving dinner Saturday at the Sunflower chapel annex.



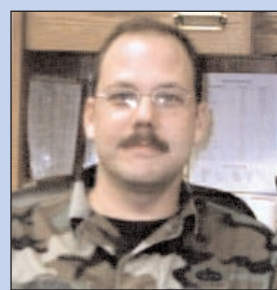
Master Sgt. Ken Schuler
Quality assurance
chief inspector

“I like having the chance to work with the elite members of the various maintenance Air Force specialties.”



Senior Master Sgt. Kathy Rumén
Squadron
superintendent

“Its size. We’re a small squadron in comparison to the other two squadrons in the maintenance group, so it’s fairly easy to get acquainted with everyone and become accepted quickly into the MOS family.”



Tech. Sgt. Thomas Molstad
NCO in charge of
technical order
distribution office

“The best thing is that we’re a smaller squadron and more family oriented.”



Airman 1st Class Jay Garcia
Maintenance data
systems analyst

“I like the fact that when something needs to get done, everyone will stay late until it is finished.”

Community

Today

RECYCLING DAY SCULPTURES

Judging will take place today for the Recycling Day Sculpture Contest at the Community Activity Center.

FRIDAYS AT LIBERTY SQUARE

Open skating at Liberty Square tonight for ages 6 to 18, from 6 to 10 p.m. Admission is \$3; \$2 for skate rental.

The teen center at Liberty Square will be open from 6 to 11 p.m., for ages 13 to 18.

DANCING AT THE CLUB

Come out to the club from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. and dance to Club Mix music by DJ “C.”

Saturday

COMEDY NIGHT

Comedy Night starts at 7 p.m., in the club. Tickets are on sale, Advanced tickets are \$12; \$14 at the door. Club members get \$2 discount.

STUFFED TABLE-TOP WORKSHOP

The skills development center will hold a Stuffed Table-Top Workshop, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$7.50, plus supplies.

Sunday

SUPER SUNDAY BRUNCH

The club offers Super Sunday Brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. They offer two meats, biscuits and gravy, eggs, fruit, waffles, omelets and more. The next Sunday Brunch is Dec. 1.

Monday

CANDY BINGO

Candy bingo is Mondays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., for ages 6 to 12, at the youth center.

Tuesday

PRETEEN POOL PARTY

Today is the last day to sign up for the Preteen “Pool Party” Nov. 23, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., for ages 6 to 12 at the base pool. Need 15 to hold, parent permission slip is required. Cost is \$5.

Wednesday

STRESS MANAGEMENT CLASS

Family advocacy sponsors a stress management class Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. in the community activity center’s Airmen’s Lounge. The class discusses physical, behavioral and emotional signals of stress. This class is open to the public,

feel free to attend even if you don’t call to sign up. Educational materials, (example) stress cards and relaxation tips will be handed out. For details or to sign up, call 747-4344.

COMMON SENSE PARENTING

Common sense parenting classes take place Wednesday, Nov. 27 and Dec. 4 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in classroom 108 in the education center. The program consists of two-hour sessions led by a trainer. Parents are taught skills that help them encourage positive behavior discourage negative behavior and teach alternatives to problem behavior. The remaining subjects of the classes are preventative teaching, corrective teaching and teaching self control (putting it all together). Call family advocacy at 747-6806 or 747-4344 to sign up or for details.

Thursday

THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER

Last day to place orders. Let the club do your Thanksgiving Day dinner for you. Twelve pound turkey, dressing, gravy, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, rolls and pie, serves four to five, \$49.95. Spouse of deployed members get \$5 off. Pick up Nov. 28, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Place orders at the club or call 747-3392.

ADVENT CALENDAR WORKSHOP

Sew this calendar with pockets for each day during Advent. The class is Nov. 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is \$15 plus supplies. Sign up today at the skills development center; or call 747-3482.

Upcoming

NATIONAL FINE ARTS EXHIBIT

Boys & Girls Club’s of America Artwork must be returned to the youth center by Nov. 27. The local exhibit is Dec. 2, 4. Pick up ID labels and rules and regulations at the youth center.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

The Airey dining facility will serve Thanksgiving dinner from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 4 to 6 p.m. Nov. 28.

Breakfast hours Thanksgiving Day are 6 to 8 a.m. and midnight meal is 11 p.m. to 12 a.m.

FREE EXTENDED DUTY CHILD CARE

Air Force people returning from overseas deployments and working extended hours may be eligible for free childcare. Contact the base family child care office at 747-3158 for details.

Sports

Veterans Day race: Runners brave cold during eight-kilometer run



(Clockwise from top) Runners take off during the start of the Veteran's Day eight-kilometer race at Lincoln Park golf course in Grand Forks Monday with below-freezing temperatures. Maj. Brett Owens, 906th Air Refueling Squadron, heads toward the finishing line. Dr. Earl Beal, race director, talks with race volunteers from the base Airman Leadership School. Nearly 70 runners, including almost 40 from the base, took part in the run. A list of winners and placers will be in the next edition of The Leader.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol



Shorts

BASKETBALL REGISTRATION

Today is the last day to join the traveling basketball team. This is for boys and girls grades 7 and up. Cost is \$37. Coaches are also needed. Call the youth center at 747-3150.

YOUTH GALAXY BOWLING

Youth Galaxy bowling is Saturdays at Dakota Lanes for ages 9 to 12 from 6 to 8 p.m., and ages 13 to 15 from 8 to 10 p.m. Cost is \$2.50 per hour and 75 cents for shoe rental. Ten people are need to hold the event. Sign up at the youth center.

FOOTBALL FRENZY

Join the Club for Football Frenzy, Sundays at noon. Four National Football League games are on at the same time.

TURKEY SHOOT

Dakota Lanes Bowling Center offers singles moonlight nine-pin-no-tap bowling Nov. 23 at 8 p.m. Cost is \$13 per person and lanes will be assigned the night of bowling.

TOURNAMENT TUESDAYS

Every Tuesday the youth center holds

tournaments for ages 9 to 12 at 5:30 p.m. and ages 13 to 18 at 7 p.m. This Tuesday's tournament is Hot Shot contest.

THE CLUB

The club is offering free pool in the sports bar every Tuesday.

OUTDOOR RECREATION SKI TRIP

Outdoor recreation, as part of their Ski Express schedule, has an early-bird-special trip Nov. 30. They will go to Frost Fire or Buena Vista, whichever opens, weather permitting.

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

The fitness center is open Thanksgiving Day and they will host their first Thanksgiving Day co-ed volleyball tournament. Games start at 9 a.m. and they will break through out the day. Sign up your four-person team by Nov. 25 at the fitness center. For details call 747-3384.

MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

Come to the Club tonight for more "Football Frenzy" for Monday Night Football Starter in the sports bar.